

**THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUDGET IN BRIEF**

**FISCAL YEAR 1999**

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## **FOREWORD**

As I complete my first year of service as the 32nd Secretary of Commerce, I take exceptional pride in all that the Department of Commerce has done over this past year to improve the lives of Americans through our work with a broad range of businesses, communities, and individuals. Consistent with the priorities set out in the Department's Fiscal Year 1999 budget, I look forward to a year ahead in which we can accomplish even more and continue to play a central role in developing and implementing the Administration's successful economic strategy.

We are a Department with a vast array of programs and operational units. Yet even as the responsibilities of the Commerce Department's nine major bureaus and agencies -- the Bureau of Export Administration, Economic Development Administration, Economic and Statistics Administration, International Trade Administration, Minority Business Development Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Patent and Trademark Office, and Technology Administration -- become more and more varied, the various parts of the Department are increasingly tied together through a shared vision and a shared mission: to ensure that we utilize and manage our nation's resources and infrastructure to promote greater economic opportunity and a higher standard of living for all Americans.

Toward that end, we have developed the Department's FY 1999 budget consistent with the three strategic themes set out in our Strategic Plan, submitted to the Congress in September 1997:

- Strengthening the Nation's Economic Infrastructure;
- Promoting Innovation in Science, Technology, and Information; and
- Improving Resource Management and Environmental Stewardship.

Addressing these three broad areas effectively necessarily involves close coordination among the Department's bureaus and with other Federal departments and agencies -- and doing so while taking full advantage of the breadth of the Department's responsibilities and expertise.

As the Department works to promote U.S. competitiveness globally, we also play a key role in addressing the development and adjustment needs of economically-distressed communities and providing needed management and technical assistance to small and medium-sized and minority-owned businesses -- helping more Americans share in the benefits of expanded trade. As we help high-technology firms commercialize and market their innovations and we protect the intellectual property of our leading-edge firms and most creative individuals, we also are making needed changes to our own technologies to upgrade the quality of key statistical data and improve the means for ensuring compliance with international trade agreements.

As we foster the spread of information through our leadership on cross-cutting electronic commerce initiatives and a range of new telecommunications projects reaching into America's schools and inner cities, we remain vigilant in enforcing the rules designed to keep certain sensitive goods and technologies from rogue regimes. And as we promote economic growth through all of these channels, we are committed to the concept of *sustainable* development -- consistent with our responsibilities for careful resource management and stewardship of the environment, particularly in this Year of the Ocean.

Coupled with our continued implementation of several important management and planning initiatives to improve the quality and delivery of the Department's services, the fulfillment of these three strategic objectives will ensure that the Department of Commerce delivers the maximum possible return to the American people on the programs covered by our \$4.9 billion budget request for Fiscal Year 1999. On behalf of the Department, I welcome the challenges of making good on the commitments that are reflected in our budget.

William M. Daley  
Secretary of Commerce

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